

DRAFT
NCLIS MINUTES

NCLIS Meeting
November 9, 1998
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn Rosslyn Westpark Hotel
Arlington, Virginia

Members present	Jeanne Hurley Simon, Chairperson; Martha Gould, Vice Chair; “Abe” Abramson; Rebecca T. Bingham; Joan Challinor; José-Marie Griffiths; and Frank Lucchino
Members not present	Walter Anderson; Winston Tabb (for James Billington); LeVar Burton; Diane Frankel; Mary Furlong; Bobby Roberts; and Joel Valdez
Staff and consultants present	Robert S. Willard, Executive Director Judith C. Russell, Deputy Director Forest Woody Horton, Consultant Barbara L. Whiteleather, Consultant and Recording Secretary
Guests and observers	Mary Costabile, American Library Association (ALA); and Ann Prentice, American Society for Information Science (ASIS)

Monday, November 9, 1998

Opening Comments

Chairperson Jeanne Hurley Simon welcomed the Members, staff and guests. She explained that today's three-hour meeting was impromptu, scheduled because of the number of Commissioners in town to attend tomorrow's hearing on "*Kids and the Internet: The Promise and the Perils.*"

Personnel Committee Report

Vice Chair Gould, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reported on the work of the committee. The committee met earlier in the day to discuss a number of projects, including the completion of the performance evaluation process, and the update and revision of the *NCLIS Administrative Manual*. The revised manual will contain informational material, such as:

- NCLIS by-laws;
- Substantive NCLIS policy statements and resolutions, from 1970 to date;
- Travel policy and procedures;
- Personnel information;
- NCLIS Public Law and technical amendments;
- Budget information and financial reports
- Bibliography of publications;
- Delegation of authority policy;
- Directory for NCLIS Commissioners and staff, including e-mail addresses

The committee strongly recommended the creation of a two-member Audit Committee, functioning as controller to assure fiscal accountability and control. Recommended committee members are: Abe Abramson, Chair, and Joel Valdez.

MOTION

It was moved by Joan Challinor, that a two-member NCLIS Audit Committee be established with Abe Abramson, Chair, and Joel Valdez, Member.

Because there was not a second to the motion, it was decided to hold further discussion until later in the day.

At Commissioner Gould's suggestion, the staff copy of Robert's Rules of Order, The Standard Guide to Parliamentary Procedure, will be available at all NCLIS meetings.

The committee also suggested that NCLIS' web site provide direct links to those congressional committees of direct importance to NCLIS.

Report of the Working Group on Issues of Journal Pricing, Publishing and Copyright

Commissioner Griffiths, Chair, Working Group on Issues of Journal Pricing, Publishing and Copyright, reported on the meeting of the Working Group held at the NCLIS office on September 29. During that meeting, the members heard via speaker phone Professor Jeff Mackie-Mason, Professor, Information, Economics and Public Policy, address alternative ways of licensing scholarly materials and reports on experiments with new pricing models, know as the University of Michigan/Elsevier PEAK (Pricing for Electronic Access to Knowledge) Project. This project is an initiative to look at alternative pricing mechanisms for electronic journals, covering all 1100 Elsevier scientific journals since 1996. They have 12 very large academic libraries participating, as well as small academic libraries, liberal arts colleges, and two non-academic libraries (one corporate and one government). At the moment, they have three million pages online. Presently, they are experimenting with three different pricing funding models:

1. *The Traditional Subscription.* Whereby libraries pay a subscription to the electronic journal and have access only to those published titles;
2. *A Subscription-Per-Article Fee.* In this arrangement a subscription is paid for certain journal titles and there is access to those over time; similar to interlibrary loan/document delivery mechanism; and
3. *A 'Generalized' Subscription.* This arrangement is similar to buying a roll of subway tokens. The readers make the selections on an article-by-article basis. However, once an article has been selected by a person, every other person affiliated with that institution has access to that article. The risk is in buying too many tokens. If you buy too few tokens, there is the option to go to the "per-article" basis for purchasing additional articles, but the cost is slightly more.

Professor Mackie-Mason reported that statistics are now being gathered on the patterns of use by different institutions using different versions of subscriptions. Professor Mackie-Mason is expected to present his report during the NCLIS April 1999 meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Commissioner Griffiths also reported on the NCLIS panel session on Journal Pricing, Publishing and Copyright to explore issues of scholarly publishing and to determine what role NCLIS might be able to play in this area. The panel specifically addressed the challenge of maintaining access to significant research and scholarship at a time when both the volume and price of information are increasing. The session, entitled *Information Access in the Global Information Economy*, was held during the American Society for Information Science (ASIS) annual meeting, in Pittsburgh, October 24-29,

and drew broad participation, resulting in 'standing room only.' The panel, chaired by Commissioner Griffiths, was composed of:

Joel Baron, Publisher, New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), representing not-for-profit publishers;

Joe Grabowski, Pittsburgh-Chemistry, representing authors and readers;

Karen Hunter, Elsevier Science, representing for-profit publishers; and

Clifford Lynch, Coalition for Networked Information, representing libraries.

Noting that the conference tapes were unavailable at that time and that only Mr. Baron's statements were available in hard copy, Dr. Griffiths reported in detail on Mr. Baron's statements. Mr. Baron compared the for-profit and not-for-profit publishers, and quoted three common wisdoms (which he disavowed):

1. It's the library's problem;
2. Libraries should increase collective buying; and
3. Authors should, to the extent they can, retain copyright.

Mr. Baron outlined the five recommendations from the *Pew Report*, adding his own sixth recommendation:

1. End the preoccupation with numbers; quality is more important than quantity;
2. Become smarter shoppers for published material;
3. 'Get a handle' on property rights;
4. Invest in electronic scholarly communication;
5. Decouple the issue of publication and promotion for tenure purposes as issues; and
6. There needs to be a full understanding of the value added by publishers.

Finally, Commissioner Griffiths reported that Mr. Baron articulated nine roles for the Commission in the area of scholarly information:

1. Provide leadership in helping to challenge all those common wisdoms and insuring that right questions are asked, i.e., focus on future environment;
2. Facilitate a national discussion around educational and funding priorities for scholarly communication;
3. With American Association of Universities (AAU), help to develop new guidelines for measuring relative importance and value of libraries;
4. Encourage support and suggest review of the ways in which faculty are evaluated for promotion and tenure;

5. Provide leadership in developing standards by which buyers and purchasers of information can access publications;
6. Facilitate discussion with scholarly societies on ways we can help coordinate the certification of quality;
7. Facilitate discussions with scholarly societies on ways in which we can help coordinate and help facilitate the requirements of online communities;
8. With Association of Research Libraries (ARL), facilitate policy and implementation discussions relative to permanent storage and access; and
9. Facilitate discussions that identify ways of evaluating the value-add provided by publishers to individual publications.

Chairperson Simon expressed appreciation for Mr. Baron's comments and stated that she will actively pursue the suggestions with the Big 12+.

Commissioner Griffiths offered to prepare a thorough report for distribution to all Commissioners.

Millennium Project

Commissioner Lucchino, Chair, NCLIS Millennium Project, expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Challinor and Mr. Willard for following up on the Commission's plans for "Sister Libraries" with Ellen Lovell at the White House. Ms. Russell reported that the White House is beginning to focus on millennium projects. To this end, the White House is encouraging agencies and, in many instances, helping to coordinate certain projects. "Having the White House's imprimatur as an official federal millennium project will give us considerable status, but it will not provide much in the way of financial support," she stated. Monthly meetings will be scheduled which should prove helpful in finding and coordinating partnerships.

Commissioner Challinor reported that Sarah Long, President-Elect, American Library Association (ALA), was now making "Sister Libraries" her personal project. She questioned if, in fact, "NCLIS and ALA are continuing to work together on for Sister Libraries project." Mary Costabile, ALA Washington Office, strongly suggested that NCLIS discuss this potential problem with the ALA Executive Board during the ALA Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, at the end of January 1999.

The Commissioners agreed that NCLIS will continue its planning for the Sister Libraries project. In addition, Commissioners will prepare to present the project to the ALA Executive Committee in January. It was suggested that NCLIS also involve the State Department and/or U.S. Information Agency (USIA) in the Sister Libraries Project.

Commissioner Challinor pointed out that while attending the Library Statistics Program meeting, September 23, she and Ms. Long had the opportunity to discuss Sister Libraries. The Commission is hopeful the administrative problems can be discussed and

solved prior to NCLIS' presentation at ALA Annual Conference. Chairperson Simon reminded the Members of the letter from ALA President Symons, dated October 30, 1998, which states, in part, 'We applaud NCLIS' initiative in planning for the millennium and encourage further discussion about the Sister Libraries Project, including what roles ALA and NCLIS would play. . There is no question that NCLIS and ALA are working together. However, the NCLIS Committee must resolve some of the details and problems.'

At the Chairperson's request, Commissioner Bingham agreed to join the NCLIS Millennium Project Committee.

Commissioner Lucchino requested suggestions for additional millennium projects. Commissioner Gould again suggested an NCLIS-sponsored international teleconference highlighting the important role of school and public libraries because, she stated, "Children are the future, and they will become our leaders." Such a project could be in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Children's Defense Fund, and/or the National Institute for Literacy. Ms. Costabile, ALA, also suggested contacting the U.S. Department of Education, which, she noted, could raise the Department's consciousness on the part of school libraries.

Commissioner Bingham noted that school librarians across America feel removed and suggested that future NCLIS involvement with ALA focus on the American Association of School Libraries (AASL), Association for Library Services to Children, International School Librarians Association, etc. Commissioner Gould agreed, stating, "Tying school libraries in with public libraries can provide the backbone for a national teleconference."

With the Committee's approval, Commissioner Gould will pursue the idea of an NCLIS-sponsored teleconference program for school and public libraries.

Mr. Willard suggested that NCLIS conceptualize a model for Sister Libraries. Commissioner Gould agreed and suggested following the model for school partnerships with businesses. She offered to share this model with the Commission.

Mr. Willard suggested, and the Members agreed, that it is the Commission's intention to pursue private philanthropy to underwrite the costs of the NCLIS Sister Libraries Project.

The Committee agreed to hold a conference call before the next NCLIS meeting, December 3-4, 1998.

Library Statistics Program (LSP)

Mr. Willard reported that the Fellowship recruitment is proceeding. He also reported that due consideration will be given to a potential proposal from an academic

institution to serve as secretariat for the NCLIS Statistics Coordinator. Mr. Willard added that Howard Harris will continue as the LSP consultant pending selection.

The FY 1999 NCLIS/National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) now awaits procurement and legal review by the Department of Education. This year's MOU is at increased funding level and is in a much-simplified version with a detailed attachment.

The joint NCLIS-ALA press release on *The 1998 National Survey of Public Library Outlet Internet Connectivity* will be released November 16, 1998. NCLIS expects to release its version of the report by mid-December.

Because of the Commission's desire to continue measuring Internet developments in public/school libraries, NCLIS staff are in discussion with ALA regarding possible next steps.

Assessment of Government Electronic Information

NCLIS Consultant Woody Horton reported that the Assessment of Government Electronic Information is on schedule and budget. As of November 9, 124 out of the estimated 300 survey forms have been returned by participating federal agencies. The deadline for completed forms is November 20. Mr. Horton pointed out that currently there is no single central point within the federal agencies that coordinates public information dissemination. Mr. Horton predicted that one of the recommendations resulting from the survey should be that Chief Information Officers must 'rise to this role of becoming a stronger voice and focal point for the dissemination of public information.'

The next contractor report is due from Westat, Inc. after the NCLIS meeting, December 3-4, 1998. However, it is not anticipated that any substantive results that depend on an analysis of the survey data can be obtained for reporting purposes until early January 1999.

LSTA

Commissioner Gould reported that the President signed Public Law 105-277, which includes \$166,175,000 for the Library Services and Technology act for FY 1999. This amount is almost \$10 million more than the FY 1998 level of \$146,340,000. The LSTA total for FY 1999 includes \$25 million for National Leadership Grants. This year's bill is the first time LSTA has been subject to such specific statutory "earmarking," or "pork projects," as they are often called. Earmarking, especially in the appropriations language where it overrides requirements in authorizing laws, tends to limit funding increases for basic programs, resulting in larger grants to fewer institutions and rewarding political clout rather than need or the best applications through the peer

review process. Commissioner Gould called for the Commission to be diligent, to monitor, and to work closely with congressional delegations to get the message out to key legislators to do a "better job of earmarking the pork projects." Chairperson Simon offered to personally speak to the newly-elected Illinois Senator.

Chairperson's Report

"Life is good. I am happy with NCLIS," Chairperson Simon stated. She expressed her appreciation for Executive Director Bob Willard and the rest of the NCLIS staff.

Recent presentations, meetings and activities include:

1. Arkansas Library Association, Little Rock [substituting for Richard Akeroyd, Gates Library Foundation]; September 29 – October 1;
2. Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) Annual Meeting, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, October 3-5 (along with Bob Willard); and
3. Arizona Library Association, Phoenix, November 4-5.

Current plans call for a presentation at WHCLIST (White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce), May 1999 to discuss a national forum for libraries.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Willard reported that NCLIS' appropriation for FY 1999 is \$1 million. This is the same amount received in FY 1998, which amounts to an inflationary decrease. A significant increase has been requested for FY 2000. Preliminary year-end financial report shows NCLIS within .4 percent of its total appropriation within major categories.

It was noted that NCLIS has been realizing substantial increases in the cost for office space. Ms. Russell is now in negotiation with the General Services Administration.

Technical improvements in the office continue. For example, year-end funds purchased new, improved and upgraded hardware/software, and Commissioners will be soon be able to access e-mail from the office. NCLIS' web page is now being redesigned. With NCLIS' new 877 number (1-877-USNCLIS/1-877-876-2547), Commissioners will soon be able to call into the office for voice-mail messages.

Highlights of recent presentations, meetings and conferences include:

1. CENDI (Commerce, Energy, NASA, Defense and Interior), Washington, DC, October 1;
2. Meeting with John Day, Librarian, Gallaudet College to discuss NCLIS meeting, July 1999;
3. Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Membership Meeting, Washington, DC, October 14-16;
4. Depository Library Council, San Diego, CA, October 20-21;
5. Facilitated meeting between Commissioner Burton and Kathryn Downing, President, LA Times, to discuss literacy and "Reading by 9"; Los Angeles, CA, October 21;
6. American Society for Information Science (ASIS) Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, October 27-28;
7. Facilitated meeting between Commissioner Anderson and Kathryn Downing, President, LA Times, to discuss literacy, New York, October 29; and
8. Senior Executive Service (SES) Briefing, Washington, DC, November 4-5.

Commissioner Abramson praised Mr. Willard for his initiative in attending so many local and out-of-town meetings and conferences. In response, Mr. Willard stated, "If I am sitting behind my desk more than half the time, I am probably not doing the job right."

Commissioner Abramson requested staff to prepare, on a regular and recurring basis, a two-year planning calendar showing relevant meetings and conferences. Such calendar would be helpful to Commissioners and to those library/information community benefiting from Commission attendance. Once the necessary software is acquired, Commissioners will be able to indicate their interest in particular meetings/conferences online.

NCLIS Meeting/Hearing Schedule

The Commissioners reviewed the draft NCLIS Meeting/Hearing schedule (included in the NCLIS meeting folder). The schedule covered NCLIS meetings/hearings, April 1999 to January 2000.

Regarding the December meeting in Seattle, Commissioner Lucchino requested Mr. Willard to arrange a briefing from the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI), especially since the Commission is meeting in conjunction with CNI.

NCLIS Committees

At the Commission's request, staff will prepare draft charters for each NCLIS committee, including the newly-established Audit Committee.

Hearing on "Kids and the Internet: The Promise and the Perils"

The Commission reviewed the schedule and arrangements for the NCLIS hearing on "*Kids and the Internet: The Promise and the Perils.*" Commissioners expressed their concern that the staff was unsuccessful in attempting to obtain local news and media coverage. Commissioners Abramson and Challinor offered to personally contact The Washington Post and/or U.S.A. Today.

Disaster in Latin America

Commissioner Challinor requested staff to consider issuing a press release expressing concern that the recent disasters have had on libraries and information centers in South and Central America.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.